

The Colored American

Published by The Colored American Publishing Company.

A National Negro Newspaper
Published every Saturday, at 459 C st.
N. W., Washington, D. C.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year, \$2.00
Six Months, 1.10
Two Months,60
Invariably in advance.

Subscription may be sent by post office money order, express or registered letter.

All communications for publication should be accompanied with the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication but as a guarantee of good faith.

We solicit news, contributions, opinions and in fact all matters affecting the race. We will not pay for matter, however, unless it is ordered by us. All matter intended for publication should reach this office by Wednesday of each week to insure insertion in the current issue.

Agents are wanted everywhere.—Send for instructions.

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Reading notices 50 cents per line. Display advertisements, \$2 per square inch, per insertion. Discounts made on large contracts.

Entered at the Post Office as second-class matter.

All letters, communications, and business matters should be addressed to

THE COLORED AMERICAN.

EDWARD E. COOPER, Manager,
459 C St., Northwest,
Washington, D. C.

Sold by all News Dealers.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1903.

A WORD TO OUR FRIENDS.

The Colored American has high aspiration, not alone for the race, but for itself as well. It is not content with any conditions which are in any manner susceptible of improvement. It is ever on the watch for the talent of our people and stands ready to afford that talent a hearing before that great audience, represented by its clientele. It invites careful observation of the constantly increasing literary excellence and virility of its editorial utterances and the wealth and comprehensive character of its news items, no less than the intelligent logical arrangement of its "pure reading matter."

It has not permitted its mechanical features to falter in the forward strides of its other departments but on the contrary points with just pride to the results exhibited in its columns of the application of the newest and most progressive appliances of the printers and engravers arts. At large cost but without the beating of tom-toms, or undue exploitation of its intentions, it has recently effected a radical improvement in its dress and ornamentation, beginning with entirely new head lines and affecting every stick of type employed in the composition of its columns.

These betterments have been made not only as a just return for and an acknowledgement of the generous patronage which we have hitherto enjoyed, but in the laudable ambition to still further extend both our circulation and our influence.

The merit then we may modestly claim. The response and the appreciation must be exoteric. Will our people support The Colored American which is the exponent of their best thought and the chronicler of the achievements of their best efforts? Congratulation and compliments come to us from out contemporaries and many friends, over the improvements and they are very comforting, but our satisfaction is much modified by an

examination of our subscription books which show the names of too many well to do people of good standing, who take the paper, but who fail to pay for it, and persistently ignore bills, duns, and appeals from us for settlement of their accounts. All honor to the large number of our subscribers who do regularly and promptly pay, but the fact that they pay does not help us to progress; they but offset the dead wood which we are forced to carry.

The Colored American needs them all, the prompt, the slow, the enthusiastic friend, the indifferent and the critical, to aid in the accomplishment of its aim to produce a race journal of highest excellence and of most commanding power for good, but the fact must ever be present that such a consummation is only to be secured by a performance of duty on the part of the public reciprocal to that which we venture to assert we never fail in doing.

Will our delinquent subscribers take counsel with conscience and shed upon us the radiance of their approval as evinced by a prompt payment of their well known obligations to us?

It is stated that Hon. John S. Durham finds social condition so acceptable in Havana, Cuba, that he will take up citizenship and permanent residence in this city. Mr. Durham is one of our best products and is bound to make his mark in any community of any country. We cannot refrain, however, from expressing our regret for the race's sake that he has determined to expatriate himself, though perhaps to a high mission for his exceptional talents in the inchoate political and economic affairs of the "Gem of the Antilles."

One Gordon MacDonald, of Montgomery, Alabama, has recently been contributing to the Washington Post, some extraordinary views of the presumed responsibility of Dr. Booker T. Washington, for the appointment to office of Southern colored men by the President. The Post publishes his letter and then proceeds to demolish him in great style, showing beyond all doubt that Dr. Washington has never taken the initiative in a single one of these appointments, contenting himself with expressing his opinion when it was requested. The Post is a frank and sometimes an unfair critic of our people, but in the main its sentiments are sound and timely and we believe in its sincerity.

In the present instance it does our great leader exact justice, both as to his relations to white men, who are prominent in political or benevolent circles and as to the material which graduates from Tuskegee. Its example could be followed with profit by the obscure colored news editors who are posing as great journalists and whose stock in trade is the villification of men of real mark and merit, inspired by their natural born hate and jealousy of every worthy, enterprising man of the race who has succeeded in making himself useful to his people. That is one of the marks that slavery left upon many of us and it has not yet been eradicated.

Is not the Southern contingency domiciled in New York City and which is constantly receiving accessions from that section which is always excluded from our thoughts when we are discussing of thinking of "God's Country," dominating public sentiment in the Metropolis, just a trifle too much? Are not the exclusion of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" from the school libraries and the crawfish of the Union League Club on the "Southern" suffrage question evidences of the domination?

The Boston Guardian accuses the Chicago Monitor, with being apatent back.—Well, the Guardian is a patent back itself and is gotten out by the New England newspaper union. We might add, also, that although the Monitor may publish its editorials on the front page, there are more brains in its editorial department than in all the columns of the Guardian combined.

The funeral of ex-Governor Shepherd, on Monday, last, was notable for the care with which the Negro was eliminated from participation. Excepting a few—all excellent gentlemen—who just had to be included, like Col. Perry Carson and Mr. David Warner and the colored High School Cadets, for the exclusion of whom those who were in charge were at their wit's end for reasons, the colored man was conspicuous by his absence. It was perhaps as well, for like thousands of other white men, Governor Shepherd liked a few colored men with whom he had been brought into personal contact, but he had no regard for the race. It will be remembered that his first prominence at claim to distinction were due to his successful division of the colored vote in the old District suffrage days in the memorable Mayoralty contest, between Emery and Bowen, and the consequent success of the party secretly pledged to destroy the then existing form of municipal government and eventually manhood suffrage. We had best keep our memories with us even at the grave of a mighty man fallen.

The decision of the Supreme Court, in the Alabama case, does not exhaust the legal relief afforded by that tribunal. What we want is a clean cut decision on the constitutionality of the grandfather clause and the case involving that question is steadily going forward and will be heard ere long.

A REMARKABLE MAN.

We are sending out to many subscribers with this weeks issue an illustrated supplement, containing an illuminated lithograph of Rev. C. T. Walker, now pastor of Mount Olivet Baptist Church, New York City. Dr. Walker is a persuasive and powerful pulpit orator and a remarkable character. In his early life after the completion of his education, he travelled extensively abroad, even visiting the holy land and upon his return to this country, wrote an interesting volume of his travels, which was warmly commended in literary circles.

Beginning his career in the ministry in the far South, as the years have gone by, he has grown in Christian fervor as he has likewise broadened in intellectual stature. Every church which he has served has taken new inspiration from his labors and the powerful example of his righteous life. He has the rare faculty of exciting enthusiasm and the rarer one of directing it in healthy and wise channels. He was called to preach while yet a student and before he had reached his majority he found his place in the clergy of the Baptist church. As we consider his career it seems to have been inevitable that he should be selected for the charge he now fills with such conspicuous ability in the great Metropolis of the Western world. It is not alone in the religious world that Dr. Walker's influence is felt. Other denomination and the purely secular world also concede his powers and worth and point to him as one of the race's best object lessons.

The Colored American presents this handsome picture of Dr. Walker first in a spirit of enterprise to maintain the interest of our readers and for the larger reason that it is the paper's settled policy to bring to the notice of the entire race the lives and the deeds of our exceptional men, those who stimulate race pride and who can exhibit substantial results as the recompense of useful labor. This description fits Dr. Walker with exactness and it is a pleasure to point to him and his life of undiminished usefulness as an inspiration and example.

It is now stated that the present unrest in the country, on the Negro question, has its origin in a deep laid scheme of Wall street and the Trust Magnates to head off Roosevelt's renomination. The idea is at least diverting. Northern politicians and Northern voters have already decided on the Presidents selection to succeed himself.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY.

We are devoting considerable space this week to the incomparable work of Howard University, that great institution of learning which had its conception and crystallization in the mind of General O. O. Howard, and which dominates the educational system of the race by the solidity, rather than the brilliancy of the training she affords. The influence of Howard University is circumscribed by neither ocean nor continent. Her graduates are conspicuous for thoroughness of education and for high ideals. They are her messengers of hope to a submerged people. Liberal then as Congress has been in its appropriations for her support this grandly conceived and magnificently administered instrument for our people's exaltation should meet with a still more generous appreciation by the people's representatives, that her usefulness may be widened and the blessings of her benefactions not denied to a single aspiring Negro who knocks at her door.

Many well meaning papers, even among our race believe the continued agitation of the suffrage question will unfavorably affect the progress of industrial education.

The truly benevolent do not desire to stimulate race pride at the expense of manhood, suffrage and civil privilege.

AN EYE FOR AN EYE.

A colored man down South hearing not long since of the lynching out West of one of the race, exclaimed, "Well it seems the Negro is surely in the whole Union now." An incident in New York city on Saturday night last gives point to the exclamation. Three policemen, over from the "old country" probably for only a brief space—one of them was named Gilhooly—went into a saloon and after a vulgar carousal started a "rough house" with the patient and courteous waiter, Jefferson Saunders, who was there to make an honest living, and who had supplied them with all for which they called. Saunders bore their sneers and taunts in silence, reluctant to jeopardize his place and his power to support his family by active resentment. Mistaking his silence for politeness these guardians (?) of the law with the usual instincts of the coward proceeded to do him up physically, with the result that two of the assailants are dead and the life of the third is despaired of. While everybody deprecates the taking of human life and violence of every character, it is difficult not to applaud Saunders and regard his act as justifiable. Yet it is sought to break the force of this sentiment by announcing that he was a "bad nigger" and had a Sing Sing record. That is of course beyond the question. He was in the peaceful and lawful performance of his duties and most certainly was not the aggressor. The testimony clearly shows this and the tragedy should teach New York people not to yield quite so completely to the narrowness of view on the Negro question which as is charged in being insidiously infused into them by the ever increasing tide of Southern white emigration which some of that city's best thinkers are beginning to deplore as a menace to the further advancement of the prosperity of the metropolis, greater than the Irish invasion. Another thought suggested by the tragedy is when are the white men going to appreciate that there are limits to the Negroes' patience and to his submission to contumely and contempt. It often happens that beneath the garb of an humble servant there beats the heart of a hero. When a white man intrudes upon a Negro shall the latter's caution to the pale face be "remember Gilhooly!" as in the Spanish war the slogan was "remember the Maine!"

The conduct of Chicago colored men in defeating a race enemy for the Mayorality of that city, is a good example of what can be accomplished by united action.